

The long Shi'i Century



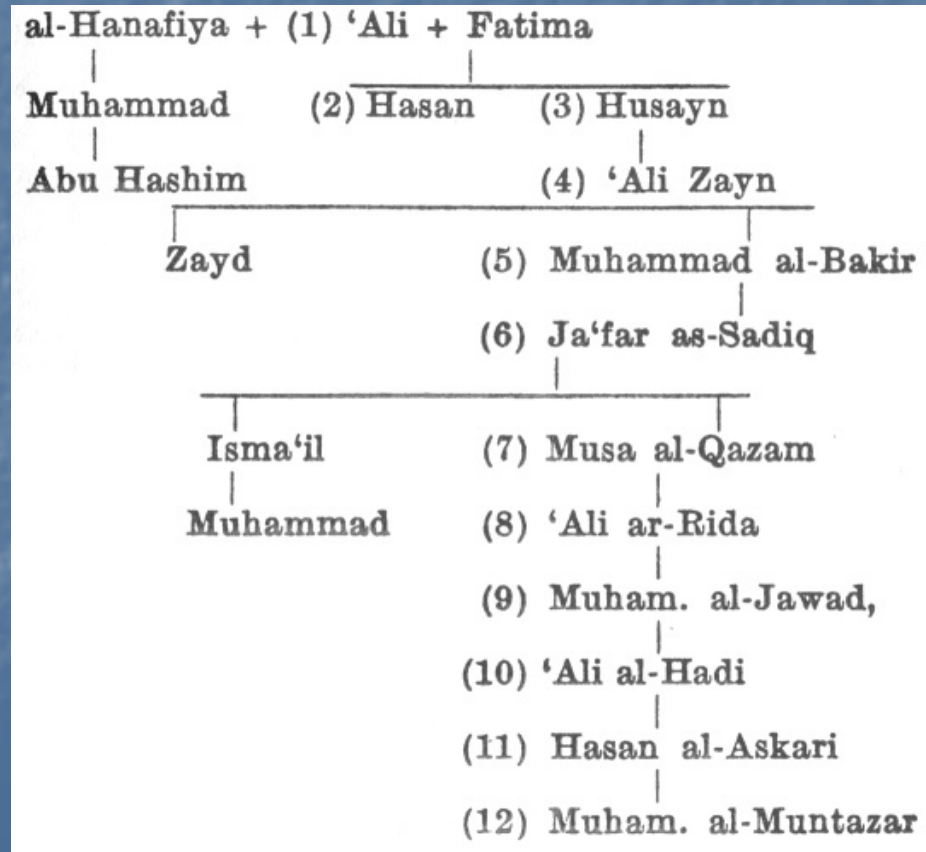
Shrine of 'Ali
at Kerbala

After the Abbasids

- The new shape of the caliphate
- Economic transformations – *iqta* system
- The military – *ghulam*
- Conversion
- Religious factionalism

From 'Alids to Shi'a

- The three types – Ismaili (7ers), Imami (12ers), Zaydis



From 'Alids to Shi'a (cont.)

- Notion of the Imamate
- Occultation (*ghayba*) and the *mahdi*
- Shiite specific doctrines
- Sunni identity in opposition – Abbasid caliphal support (al-Qadir r. 991-1031) and the Ghaznavids

The Shiite Dynasties

- Buyids (12er?)
- Hamdanids (12er)
- Qarmatians (Ismaili – no mahdi)
- Fatimids (Ismaili - mahdi)

The Buyids (930s-1040s)

- Origins in Daylam
- Three kingdoms – Baghdad (Iraq), Fars, Rayy and al-Jibal
- Role of the *wizir* and status as *amir al-umara'*
- Federation or Empire?
- Military rule by ethnic outsiders
- 'Adud al-Dawla (d. 983)
- The problematic world of Baghdad – Turkish association with Sunni cause

Hamdanids (10th c.)

- Origins in the Banu Taghlib (Syrian Jazira)
- Two main centers – Mosul (Nasir al-Dawla) and Aleppo (Sayf al-Dawla)
- Importance of the *ghilman* (s. *ghulam*)
- Relations with Baghdad and Egypt – political straddling
- Problems of the *jihad*

Qarmatians

- Political dissidents – rebelling against the weakened 'Abbasid state
- Base in Syrian steppe, later Bahrayn (Hasa)
- The missionary model
- 899 break with the Ismaili Fatimids
- A democratic state?

The Fatimid Caliphate

- Ubayd Allah assumes mantle of the *mahdi*
- Missionizing success in North Africa
- Establishment of Caliphate and capital of Mahdiyya
- Berber support essential
- Sights set on Egypt – but must first control the Maghrib
- 969 Jawhar (general) finally takes Egypt – al-Qahira is founded

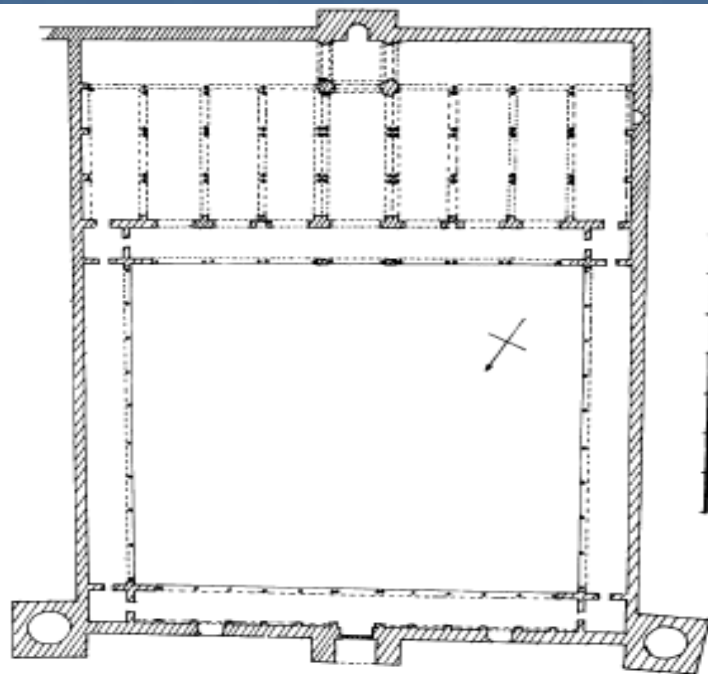


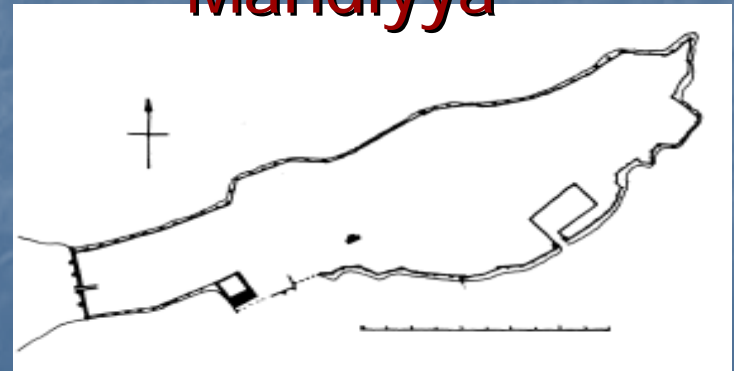
Fig. 4. Al-Mahdiyya. Mosque, Plan (after Lézine).



Plate 1. Al-Mahdiyya. Great Mosque. Portal. (Photo: J. Bloom.)



Mahdiyya



The Fatimid Dynasty After the Egyptian Conquest

- The Syrian problem – i.e. what to do with the Qaramita
- Late 11th century control outside of Egypt challenged by Turks (Levant), Zirids and Banu Hilal (N. Africa)
- 12th c. Crusader threats
- 1169-1171 fall to the Ayyubid dynasty

